

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINCUSAREUR UNN

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USAREUR, USAFE AND EUCOM FOR POLADS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: SPD LOSES, CDU AND FDP GAIN IN NRW LOCAL ELECTIONS

1. REGIONAL REFORM, PASSED BY THE NORTHRHINE- WESTPHALIAN
LANDTAG, MADE IT NECESSARY TO HOLD LOCAL BY- ELECTIONS IN ONE CITY,
5 COUNTIES AND 17 COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN WESTPHALIA WITH ABOUT
ONE MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS ON MARCH 25, 1973.

2. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY RESULTS THE TREND CLEARLY INDICATES
SPD LOSSES OF ABOUT 1.9 PERCENT COMPARED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE
1969 LOCAL ELECTION RETURNS; THE CDU GAINED 2.7 PERCENT AND
THE FDP GAINED 1.3 PERCENT. WITH APPROXIMATELY 71 PERCENT,
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VOTERS PARTICIPATION WAS ABOUT AVERAGE FOR A LOCAL ELECTION.

3. THE SPD LOST ITS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN ONE OF ITS STRONG-HOLDS, THE CITY OF BIELEFELD AND BARELY MAINTAINED IT IN THE COUNTY OF HERFORD. THE CDU EXTENDED ITS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE GUETERSLOH AND WARENDORF COUNTIES. THE FDP FOR THE FIRST TIME IS REPRESENTED IN ALL COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN EASTERN WEST-PHALIA. IN ITS TRADITIONAL STRONGHOLDS IT EVEN EXCEEDED 20 CENT OF THE VOTE. THE DKP, WHICH DID NOT RUN TO USE FRIGATE FOR PROTECTION PURPOSES, WHICH WOULD RISK EXACERBATING SITUATION. AT SAME TIME, SYKES SAID THERE WERE INDICATIONS GOI MIGHT AGREE TO RESUMPTION TALKS WITH UK IN NEAR FUTURE. IF THIS HAPPENS, NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR BRITISH TRAWLERS MIGHT DISAPPEAR.

4. SEPTELS REPORT ICELANDIC INQUIRY RE CUTTER TO BE USED OFF NEIMAEY. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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